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AFTERMATH OF THE U2 INCIDENT

Hats Off To CIA, Ike And Powers

THE DESERET NEWS and many other newspapers and magazines have carried some interesting articles on the U-2 incident since Pilot Powers is back home and free to be interviewed. These interviews have been most enlightening, pointing out clearly that Pilot Powers has been officially cleared by the CIA and other government agencies of treason, cowardice or anything like that.

This newspaper was not so lenient and neither have the letters to "Our Readers' News-stand" been very favorable to the pilot.

None of the articles has done anything other than judge Powers as a good or bad patriot or his commander as a possible fool. This deal about saying the flights should have been stopped prior to the summit conference is a typical political trick. It's easy to blame the CIA since they can't defend, or explain their actions. It's also easy to judge Powers, since no one was there to find out exactly what he went through and what he was told by the CIA or the Russians.

Even the President's actions were under fire for "admitting" that the plane was ours and that we would do it again.

My hat is off to Powers. He played the innocent boy act to steer the court away from the real purpose of the flights. What he admitted didn't matter anyway and the trial was open to the public so he could get the man on the street a little bit on his side. He actually expected to be executed no matter what, but he didn't let the real story out...

My hat is off to Ike for deciding to set up such a touchy program to find the Russians' missile progress. But he jumped right in and admitted the whole thing because it was his decision in the first place. Only the President could decide to set up such a program with all the possible side effects that could develop.

Hats off to the CIA. The gamble paid off. We had no other way of knowing where the Russians were in the defense missile game...

"Why swap a traitor for the top Russian spy?" Because he wasn't a traitor, or a coward, or an overpaid mercenary, but a topnotch pilot with a lot of nerve and a professional spy of extreme value.

This is my idea of the so-called national scandal. Everyone involved has gone the extra mile to help the country while the politicians have been calling everyone from the President to the CIA and Powers a bunch of liars.

—Richard M. Jepperson
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